

As hard as these times have been—I am more optimistic about America today than I have been my whole life.

Because I see the future that is within our grasp.

Because I know there is simply nothing beyond our capacity.

We are the only nation on Earth that has always turned every crisis we have faced into an opportunity.

The only nation that can be defined by a single word: Possibilities.

So on this night—in our 246th year as a Nation—I have come to report on the State of the Union.

And my report is this: the State of the Union is strong—because you—the American people—are strong.

We are stronger today—than we were a year ago.

And we will be stronger a year from now than we are today.

Now is our moment—to meet and—overcome the challenges—of our time.

And we will.

As One People.

One America.

The United States of America.

May God bless you all. May God protect our troops.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 1, 2022.

#### APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, and in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: the Honorable Carte P. Goodwin, of West Virginia, for a term beginning January 1, 2022, and expiring December 31, 2023 (reappointment); and James Mann, of New York, for a term beginning January 1, 2022, expiring December 31, 2023.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME EN BLOC—S. 3717, S. 3723, AND S. 3724

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there are three bills at the desk, and I ask for their first readings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3717) to withdraw normal trade relations treatment from, and apply certain provisions of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to, products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 3723) to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation in response to the invasion of Ukraine, to confiscate assets of the Russian Federation and remit those assets to the legitimate Government of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 3724) to provide emergency supplemental appropriations in response to the crisis in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will now receive their second readings on the next legislative day.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 639, 409, 411, 693, and 694; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Donald Armin Blome, of Illinois, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Raymond A. Limon, of Nevada, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2025; Tristan Lynn Leavitt, of Idaho, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2023; John F. Plumb, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense (New Position); and Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, all en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### STRENGTHENING AMERICAN CYBERSECURITY ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on something that is very important to this country, Senator PETERS, in a minute, will move to pass the Strengthening American Cybersecurity Act.

As we all know, protecting America—our government, our businesses, our utilities, and so many of our entities—from cyber attack has been very, very important over the last decade. It becomes even more important now. As the war in Ukraine goes on and as

Putin mounts his illegal, immoral, and unprovoked attack, he is escalating cyber attacks on democracies around the world. So, as the need to protect this country from cyber attack is always very, very, very important, it has assumed even greater importance now with Putin's fighting in Ukraine and threatening cyber attacks throughout the world.

Today, the Senate is taking an urgently needed step to protect the American people, American critical infrastructure, and American Government institutions from the dangerous threat of cyber attacks. The most important part of this provision will require our companies—our individual businesses—to report cyber attacks when they occur.

There has been a reluctance on the part of many in the business community to want to do this because it may expose them to other kinds of harm, and maybe the public will not want to be involved in these businesses, but the importance of the reporting is vital. When our authorities in the government know of the attacks, they can prepare against future attacks. They will know who is attacking, where they are attacking, and how they are attacking. That will allow them to strengthen our defenses against future cyber attacks. So this knowledge of cyber attacks, caused by foreign entities or domestic entities, is vital as America seeks to protect itself.

This legislation has been around for a while. For too long, certain business interests opposed it, but now they have come to see the light, and, in fact, we have a bipartisan agreement—unanimous in this Chamber—that this bill move forward. That is very important for America's security. It is more important than it ever has been. Cyber warfare is truly one of the dark arts—specialized by Putin and his authoritarian regime—and this bill will help to protect us from Putin's attempted cyber attacks against our country.

Last year, I asked Chairman PETERS and other relevant committee chairs to draft legislation to counter the increased threat, and Senator PETERS has done an outstanding job. I want to commend him and Senator PORTMAN and so many others—Senator WARNER among them—for being heavily involved in this issue.

Tonight, we will pass legislation by unanimous consent. When this legislation passes and is signed into law, America will be a safer place from one of the greatest scourges we worry about—cyber attack. I am glad we are doing this, and I am glad both sides have agreed.

I yield to Senator PETERS, who, as I said, as chair of the HSGAC Committee, has done a terrific job in shepherding this legislation through the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate